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ANOTHER FIRST-TIME PLAYER HITS BIG PRIZE

-Friends Choose Lucky Ticket for Gastonia Man-

RALEIGH- Connie Johnson of **Charlotte** said she had never before purchased a lottery ticket, but her first time playing she got a big payoff. Johnson won \$200,000 after letting the computer pick her numbers for the Jan. 16 Powerball drawing. Her numbers matched the five white balls, but not the Powerball.

Johnson told North Carolina Education Lottery (NCEL) officials that she was in shock upon learning that she had won. She bought the ticket at the Quik Shoppe on Brookshire Boulevard in Charlotte. She said her winnings will help her buy a new home. A first-time "Carolina Cash 5" player claimed her prize of \$194,592 Friday.

Some friends of Michael Hovis were headed to a local store in **Gastonia** and asked if he wanted anything. He said, "Yea, get me some lottery tickets." When the friends found out that one of the tickets they purchased for Hovis was worth \$150,000, the friends jokingly said they had given him the wrong ticket. They bought the "\$150,000 Anniversary Cash" ticket at Kingsway #2 on Union Road in Gastonia. Hovis said he would save some, maybe take a trip and give some money to his two grown children.

A **Lumberton** woman says her heart started "really pumping" when she checked the NCEL Web site and saw that she matched the five white balls on the Jan. 12 Powerball drawing, which meant she won a \$200,000 prize. Shreen Thadani let the computer pick her numbers when she bought the ticket at Tanglewood Liberty on North Roberts Avenue in Lumberton. She said today she is not sure yet what she will do with her winnings.

Five tickets worth \$10,000 to \$20,000 each were sold in **Graham, Lumberton, Kannapolis, Asheville** and **Greensboro** for last night's Powerball drawing. Matching four white balls and the Powerball normally is worth \$10,000, but since two of the tickets were Power Played and the multiplier for the drawing was a two, those prizes were doubled. A total of 35,347 players won prizes in the Wednesday drawing ranging from \$20,000 down to \$3 for a total payout in prizes worth \$272,249. No one won the jackpot so the jackpot for Saturday's drawing is worth an estimated \$43 million.

The NCEL has paid out over \$4.8 million total in instant scratch-off ticket prizes since Monday. Also since Monday, "Carolina Cash 5" players have won over \$114,000 and "Carolina Pick 3" players have won more than \$426,000 in prizes.

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Winners in the Jan. 30 Powerball drawing:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Store Where Ticket Was Purchased</u>
Curtis Coble	Graham	\$20,000	BP Graham 924 East Harden St., Graham
Unknown		\$20,000	Gazz Up 3801 Fayetteville Rd., Lumberton
Hubert Pharris	China Grove	\$10,000	Food Lion #1284 2825-B N. Cannon Blvd., Kannapolis
Unknown		\$10,000	Kerr Drug #104 275 McDowell St., Asheville
Unknown		\$10,000	Patterson #372 2814 Patterson St., Greensboro

Winners in the Jan. 16 Powerball drawing:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Store Where Ticket Was Purchased</u>
Connie Johnson	Charlotte	\$200,000	Quik Shoppe 5600 Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte

Winners in the Jan. 12 Powerball drawing:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Store Where Ticket Was Purchased</u>
Shreen Thadani	Lumberton	\$200,000	Tanglewood Liberty 2759 N. Roberts Ave., Lumberton

Instant scratch-off ticket top tier prize winners:

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Hometown</u>	<u>Amount Won</u>	<u>Game Played</u>
Michael Hovis	Bessemer City	\$150,000	"\$150,000 Anniversary Cash"
Roselyn Graham	Shannon	\$75,000	"Bonus Crossword"
Deborah Beasley	Apex	\$10,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
William Loehr	Raleigh	\$10,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Mitchell Brazie	Beaufort	\$10,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Wilbur Blake	Cary	\$10,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
William Goodman	Goldsboro	\$10,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Don Carter	Jamestown	\$7,777	"Ruby Red 7's"
Katrina Wachtel	Statonsburg	\$7,777	"Ruby Red 7's"
Roger Greene	Lenoir	\$7,000	"Super 7's"
Sharon Thompson	Fayetteville	\$7,000	"Super 7's"
Michele Ramsey	Roxboro	\$7,000	"Super 7's"
Michelle Egbert	Concord	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Alice Clark	Lenoir	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Lawanda Suggs	Kinston	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Diana Farrar	Pleasant Garden	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Blanche McDowell	Laurinburg	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Tarsch Nicholson	Enfield	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Bobby Sims	Wingate	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"
Steven Tubbs	Lumberton	\$5,000	"\$100 Million Cash Spectacular"

(More)

“Carolina Cash 5” Top Prize Winners Tally	
<u>Prize</u>	<u># of winners</u>
\$50,000 to \$856,998	98
Powerball Winners Tally	
<u>Prize</u>	<u># of winners</u>
\$1 Million - \$200,000	89
\$50,000 - \$10,000	523
(The Powerball numbers above are since May 31, 2006, but do not include unclaimed prizes.)	

100% of the North Carolina Education Lottery net proceeds are used for pre-kindergarten programs for at risk youth, reduction of class size in early grades, school construction and college scholarships for need-based individuals.